

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA LEADERS ON INTERNATIONAL
SITUATION

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A REVIEW OF THE PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA LEAD ARTICLES ON
THE CPSU PLENUMS FROM NOVEMBER 1971 TO THE MOST RECENT
ONE SHOWS THAT IN 1971 AND 1972 EACH OF THESE PUBLICA-
TIONS PRODUCED ITS OWN EDITORIAL ON THESE OCCASIONS.
AFTER THE APRIL AND DECEMBER 1973 PLENUMS, HOWEVER,
PRAVDA'S EDITORIAL WAS REPRINTED IN IZVESTIYA, WHICH DID
NOT CARRY A VERSION OF ITS OWN. THE YEAR 1974 OFFERED
BOTH VARIATIONS: IN JULY, PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA EACH
PRESENTED ITS OWN POST-PLENUM EDITORIAL, WHILE IN
DECEMBER, THE PRAVDA LEAD ARTICLE WAS ONCE AGAIN RE-
PRINTED BY IZVESTIYA. (IT MIGHT BE OF SIGNIFICANCE HERE
THAT THE JULY 1974 PLENUM DEALT WITH RELATIVELY NON-
CONTENTIOUS SUPREME SOVIET MATTER, BUT WE HAVE NO
EVIDENCE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.) IN ANY EVENT, THE
APPEARANCE OF AN IZVESTIYA EDITORIAL THIS YEAR, VARYING
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SUBSTANTIALLY FROM PRAVDA'S, AND FOLLOWING A PLENUM OF

SOME IMPORT, SUGGESTS AT A MINIMUM, A RETURN TO THE

PRE-1973 PRACTICE OF PERMITTING DIFFERING EDITORIAL
TREATMENT OF PLENUMS. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT PRAVDA STILL
REMAINS FIRST AMONG "EQUALS," IN THAT ITS EDITORIAL AND
NOT IZVESTIYA'S WAS REPRINTED IN OTHER MAJOR SOVIET PUBLI-
CATIONS THIS TIME AROUND. KISSINGER

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